

Interview with Beverly Campbell Plante

by Don Sparrow

Eastham, Massachusetts

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Don: This is an Oral History for the Eastham Historical Society. We're at the home of Beverly Campbell Plante. The date is September 21, 1987.

Beverly was born in Eastham and went to school with me both through the grade school and Orleans high school and she and her husband retired to Eastham in 1982.

I'm particularly interested in talking about rumrunning. As we were just saying, just about everyone in Eastham was involved in rumrunning in one way or the other. I know Bud Cummings was an authentic rumrunner. Your father was involved in some way?

Beverly: I'm sure he was, because he went out quahogging. Besides being a farmer, he was a quahogger, and there was always some on the flats that they'd thrown off the boats. I guess when the Coast Guard chased them, they unloaded.

Don: That was my understanding, that they did that.

Beverly: I do remember that occasionally they came home with some liquor and they usually sold it to Quincy Shaw, as far as I can remember. But I didn't pay much attention.

I remember one time in particular, there was a lot came ashore. I think it was off Sunken Meadow and they went out at low tide, everybody from North Eastham and all around. And I remember my brother Buddy telling, when he was in here one summer, that they went down in my father's truck and they had to park at the beach and walk out on the flats and it was getting dark. So he came in with all he could carry and my father and my other brother hadn't come in yet. So he hid his in the bushes and went back again.

In the meantime, they came in with theirs and thought he'd gone home. So they went home without him, and when he came in with another load, he found that they had left him there and in turning the truck around they had backed over what he hid in the bushes and broken it all. And he had to walk home. He was pretty young then, so he probably couldn't carry it. I guess they had to come back and get what he left there.

Don: As I understand it, they came in what they called cases, but were really burlap bags. Did you remember that?

Beverly: Don't remember ever seeing them, Donald. I don't know.

Don: You were too young.

Beverly: I was too young, yes. I tried to call my brother to get him to come over, but I couldn't reach him.

Don: You don't recall what they got for this stuff per bottle?

Beverly: I have no idea.

Don: Other people have told me that Quincy Shaw was always a good customer for anything they brought ashore.

Beverly: Of course, my brothers used to caddy over there. This was during Prohibition, so they were glad to have it. They used to carry flasks and drink as they played golf.

Don: I remember we hung around outside the back door, which was the exit out to the golf course and the tee, and they carried these great trash cans full of empty bottles out. There was an aroma of Scotch and coffee and toast. There was a wonderful smell coming out of them and quite frequently they were a little bit the worse for wear.

Beverly: I remember my brother talking about John Charles Thomas, when he came up to play golf. He always had a flask and about the third hole he'd start singing. [Laughter]

Don: My folks told me that he traveled with his father-in-law.

They'd come down from Boston or New York, and the car had a chauffeur, of course, and they had a bar built in, so every once in a while they'd have to pull to the side and have a drink to make the trip less unbearable. Of course, you didn't caddy. That would be unthinkable.

Beverly: No, I was never even up there to Quincy Shaw's.

Don: Well, let's see, we went to school-- you lived in North Eastham?

Beverly: Yes.

Don: The Bresnahan place now is the house you were in?

Beverly: Yes. That one and the house across the street, Cestaro's. Where Bresnahans are was my Grandfather Campbell's, and the house that Cestaro bought is beside what is now the Council on Aging Thrift Shop. That was where I was born.

Don: Next to Sam Brackett's store?

Beverly: Next to Sam Brackett's store, yes.

Don: You must remember Sam Brackett's store then?

Beverly: Oh-- and how! It was a fabulous store. You could buy

everything. It was a department store really. Everything.

Don: Penny candy?

Beverly: Cookies, meat, groceries, yard goods, needles, thread. Upstairs was furniture and dishes. And in back was coal and wood and I guess kerosene, when it came into-- I don't know if he had hay and grain or not, I don't remember that.

Don: Yes, he did. Art Benner talked about it. Art said that out back was the grain and hay and coal and oil.

Beverly: I thought probably he did, yes.

Don: And penny candy. What kinds of candy did they have?

Beverly: Well, you could buy most anything for a penny.

Don: What, jawbreakers and-- ?

Beverly: The Boston Baked Beans.

Don: Oh, I remember those.

Beverly: And the little Tootsie Rolls. They were like two for a penny, I think.

Don: Then they had these bananas, so-called bananas.

Beverly: Yes, and they had the chocolate with the white-- I can't tell you what we used to call those.

Don: Well, I know what we called them. We called them nigger-toes.

Beverly: And peppermints and, of course, lollypops.

Don: Who worked in the store? Was it Sam?

Beverly: Oh, Sam was there, and then young Sam. And Everett Young came and George Wiley. He drove the horse and team and delivered the groceries, besides delivering news from one house to the other.

Don: He was quite a character.

Beverly: Everett Young was an addition later on. But then there was Doney. I don't know who he was. He came from South Wellfleet, I think. We called him Doney.

Don: I don't remember him. Well, they went out of business in the middle thirties, didn't they?

Beverly: Yes.

Don: I remember they had a big Going Out Of Business sale.

Beverly: I wasn't here then. I think that was after I got out of high school and I was in Boston. I guess, because I don't remember it.

Don: You went to high school, I know, with Pop Stewart.

Beverly: Yes. Your brother Wilbur was in my class.

Don: And Dick Butler was one of the teachers.

Beverly: Yes. Science, and he taught basketball too.

Don: And also Civics. Remember? The first high school freshman class Civics and you had a mock Congress and you played at being a Senator or a Congressman, and you drafted bills and you put them through the Senate and the Congress and enacted laws. He was a pretty good teacher.

Beverly: Yes. As far as Civics went, I think he was a good teacher, but we had no labs for Science. He taught Chemistry and we didn't have any lab.

Don: That's right. I don't think they even had a testtube, did they?

Beverly: They had one Bunsen burner and a few test tubes when I took it. That's all I remember about it. And a counter. In the basement.

Don: Right. And you took French from Mrs. Beryl Eldredge?

Beverly: Yes, and then there was another one that taught French, but I had Beryl. Miss DeGagne was the other one.

Don: I don't remember her. Eunice McCew was the Latin teacher.

Beverly: Beryl taught English and French.

Don: That's right. I remember reading Ivanhoe and Silas Marner and other what I thought were boring books at the time. I've never re-read them to find out--

Beverly: I always remember, one of the French books that I liked was The Black Tulip,

Don: Yes, I remember reading that.

Beverly: I remember she taught two classes at once. Like the class ahead of us was in our class of French, because everybody didn't take it. And Denise Deschamps, Bobby's older sister, was in that same class, and she used to ask her for the correct

pronunciations, because Denise spoke real Parisian French.

Don: Well, Bob was in my class and he flunked French, I think.

[Laughter] He could talk it, but he couldn't read it.

Beverly: That's like my husband. He can speak it, but he can't read it.

Don: Oh, is he French?

Beverly: Canadian French.

Don: What part of Canada did he come from?

Beverly: He came from Cranston, Rhode Island, but his mother came from Canada. His father was French, but he was born in Rhode Island.

Don: What did the students do for extracurricular activities? There was a basketball team. You played in the basketball team?

Beverly: I played in the basketball team, yes.

Don: What position did you play?

Beverly: Forward. At that time the court was divided and only the forwards got to shoot. I don't know about the boys, but

in the girls only the forwards got to shoot baskets.

Don: And was there five or six?

Beverly: Six. The center and side center. I was only a substitute. I can't take credit for being first string. But I did get to play sometimes.

Don: And, of course, there were always dances. There was the Senior Prom and the Junior Prom.

Beverly: Yes. And to raise money to go to Washington, they used to have movie benefits and we'd sell fudge. Go up and down the aisle and bring them home-made fudge. I don't know if your class did that or not, but we did.

Don: No, we didn't we do that.

Beverly: Then there was always the senior play.

Don: That's right. Were you in the senior play?

Beverly: Oh, yes.

Don: Do you remember what it was all about?

Beverly: No, I don't.

Don: Then the big thing, of course, was the senior Washington trip.

Beverly: The Washington trip, yes. We went from Orleans Railroad Station by train to Fall River. Did you do that?

Don: Actually we went to Boston and took the boat from Boston through the Canal.

Beverly: We took the boat from Fall River.

Don: You didn't go through the Canal then?

Beverly: It was at night. I don't know where we went. [Laughs]
I'm trying to think. Probably not.

Don: When I went, they were allowed to have gambling when you got beyond the three-mile limit. So they had these horse races. They'd throw dice and move the horses along in a numbered track, and we were all betting a nickel on a certain horse. Of course I smoked my first cigarette.

Beverly: You beat me. I didn't smoke till I got out of high school two or three years. I stopped many years ago.

Don: In New York we stayed at the Taft Hotel. I remember that.

Beverly: Yes, we did too.

Don: And then we took the bus.

Beverly: We took the bus. I don't know where we stayed in Washington. I don't remember.

Don: I don't remember. It wasn't a very good hotel, as I recall. I remember one evening having a dish with mashed potatoes and I found a cigarette butt in my mashed potatoes. Obviously they were just recycling the mashed potatoes.

Beverly: Well, you lived! And then we went to Gettysburg and Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Don: Yes. And the Luray Caverns in Virginia.

Beverly: Yes. Quite a trip. We went to the Library of Congress and there was a movie we wanted to see. So some of us sneaked off and went to the movies that afternoon. We didn't see much of the Library of Congress.

Don: All the boys went to the Gaiety Theater. You didn't go to the Gaiety Theater.

Beverly: No, I didn't go there.

Don: That was the burlesque show.

Beverly: No, I didn't go there.

Don: That was the big event of the senior year.

Beverly: Well, you worked for that. All through high school you worked towards the Washington trip. In grammar school you worked for the Nantucket trip.

Don: That's right, we went to Nantucket. Now you went to the grade school too all eight years?

Beverly: Yes. I had the same teachers you had, I guess.

Don: Florence Keith. Virginia Horton and Otto.

Beverly: Otto Nickerson, yes.

Don: How many were there in your class?

Beverly: I think ten.

Don: You had a big class then?

Beverly: I have a program of the graduation somewhere.

Don: See, this was what year? '31?

Beverly: '31.

Don: I'm assembling all the programs and I've got them in a book and I'm going to put them on display in the museum. I've got one as far back as 1907. It was my Uncle Rob's graduating class. Then I've got one for 1909, which was donated by Esther Sparrow Manimon.

Beverly: I've got some down here, I'm pretty sure, somewhere. I've got my own, of course, but I haven't got my mother's. I've got some from Orleans High School with Eastham people in it too.

Don: It would be fun to see if you could fill out our collection.

Do you remember the Valentine Day celebrations in the grammar school?

Beverly: Yes. We brought the ingredients and made ice cream and the boys went down to the pond to get the ice.

Don: Did they make just vanilla or was it several flavors?

Beverly: All I remember is vanilla.

Don: And we drew lots to-- we drew tickets to-- you had to give a Valentine to somebody and you drew lots, so everyone would get one.

Beverly: Everyone would get at least one Valentine, right.

Don: The popular girls in the class got a flood of them. And there were these penny Valentines, "Yours Until Niagara Falls".

Beverly: Yes. So what else? We used to go sliding in the winter. Do you remember that?

Don: Where did you go sliding?

Beverly: On the hill across the street from the museum. It's all trees now. You know, it was amazing. You had to walk to school. We rode on the barge.

Don: Oh, you rode the barge?

Beverly: And Jim Brewer was the driver when I went. Before I started school, my father used to drive the barge.

Don: That was horse driven?

Beverly: No, that was--

Don: Model T perhaps.

Beverly: I guess. I don't remember. Jim Brewer was so good-natured, you know, and he'd stop and wait for you to tie your sleds on the back, and by the time we got to school, there was a whole long line of sleds hanging out behind the bus, and then he'd wait for us to untie all of them. He was such a good-natured bus driver. And the same thing after school. He had to wait for us to tie them all on again. And when he stopped in front of our house, he'd wait. We had to tie them on so we could untie them in sequence.

Don: He didn't let you ride on the sleds though?

Beverly: No.

Don: Did the barge have glass windows?

Beverly: It had curtains.

Don: Side curtains that rolled up?

Beverly: Yes.

Don: I remember Harry Collins I think was the bus driver that I remember.

Beverly: He went to the high school.

Don: Yes, that's right.

Beverly: He drove from South Eastham down here and then he took the ones that were going to high school back up.

Don: And his bus had a hand-operated windshield wiper. That's the thing that sticks in my mind. When it was raining, he was looking like this and steering with one hand and moving the windshield wiper with the other.

Beverly: I'm sure he wouldn't have waited for you to tie your sled on either.

Don: You must remember Otto's famous strap.

Beverly: Yes, I remember. My brother and your brother got it more often than anyone.

Don: I talked to Otto about the strap once and he said, oh yes, that came from a harness that his father had.

Beverly: I thought so. It seemed enormous to me.

Don: Well, he described it as being a quarter of an inch thick.

Beverly: It was. I remember one day-- I don't know what Wilbur had done. I'm sure nobody ever did anything very serious, but Wilbur pulled back his hand and Otto hit his knee. [Laughter]

Don: I bet that made him even madder.

Beverly: He took him out in the entry then.

Don: I remember Otto spanked a girl once. Did he ever spank anyone?

Beverly: I never saw him raise a hand to a girl.

Don: I won't mention the name of the girl. You'll understand as I tell the story, but he spanked this girl, and I went home and told my father about it, my father and mother, that he'd spanked Blank Blank. And my father's reaction-- I always remember this-- my father said, "It's a wonder he didn't burn his hand."
[Laughter]

Beverly: I don't remember that. Must have been somebody behind me. Were you in his room when I was in his room?

Don: I don't think so.

Beverly: I don't think so either, because Robert was behind-- yes. You must have been in Virginia's room when I was in Otto's

room.

Don: Yes. Then I came to the sixth grade. Then I got a double promotion to the eighth grade. So Wilbur and Robert and I graduated in successive years.

Beverly: I caught up with Wilbur. Or else he got a double promotion. Did he get a double promotion?

Don: No, he didn't.

Beverly: In the third grade?

Don: No. No, he didn't.

Beverly: Well, I caught up with him then, because Barbara and Miriam and I think George Rongner and I, we all got double promotions and skipped third grade.

Don: Did you?

Beverly: Yes.

Don: Do you regret getting a double promotion or didn't it make much difference?

Beverly: It didn't make much difference to me. In fact, I was

kind of glad, because I was six and a half years old when I started school, because my birthday came after January. So I was like six months older than most of them.

Don: I got the two double promotions. I always felt it was not a good thing, because I was young when I went to school and then the two double promotions, I was two years or more younger than all the people in my high school.

Beverly: In Miss Keith's room-- of course she taught three grades, so we had done all the third grade work. I guess we were precocious or something, so she used to let us read with the third grade and do their arithmetic. So there was really no reason for us to do third grade. I can't see us skipping seventh grade. I don't know, you must have missed a lot.

Don: I did just what you did. I listened to all of the classes and so at the end of the year I knew everything in all three grades. If I'd been in the sixth grade, I knew the seventh grade.

Beverly: Right. You finished your work, so then you listened to the next grade. I think that was a good system.

Don: Sure it was. I think intellectually it was a good system. You learned a lot. But emotionally and socially it was bad to be younger.

Beverly: Yes. You were younger than the others. That's why I don't think it's good for children to start when they're five really.

Don: And they seem to be pushing them more now. Our little grandson, who is four years old, is going to Montessori School.

Beverly: I remember when I went to first grade, I was very embarrassed the first day of school, because Miss Keith had put our names on a large piece of cardboard, written our names in big letters, where we were supposed to sit, and I couldn't read my name. So I just stood there and I waited until everyone sat down and then I took the empty chair.

Don: I think that was very smart of you.

Beverly: Nobody had bothered to teach me to read before I went to school. She was good. I loved Miss Keith.

Don: She was a wonderful, wonderful woman. In fact, they were all good. Virginia--

Beverly: I was a little bit afraid of Virginia, although-- she was a little bit sarcastic, I think. But she was a good teacher.

Don: Yes. And Otto, of course, was a wonderful teacher.

Beverly: I remember those geography notebooks we made. I loved making those geography notebooks. If you could get a National Geographic and cut it up.

Don: I remember we were always a little resentful of the Nickerson family, Vernon and Raymond and Irene. They were always so bright, and we always thought that Raymond handed his book down to Vernon.

Beverly: Vernon won't enjoy hearing you say that. [Laughter]

Don: He'll know I'm kidding him.

Beverly: Vernon beat me out in a spelling bee once. He was so smart. He was a year behind me, I guess. He was in Otto's room when I was anyway. This was in the Town Hall. We competed in the school and then we went to the Town Hall and competed and he and I were the last two up and Vernon won. And then I think he went on to New Bedford and then to the state.

Don: He was and is very, very bright. You don't remember the word that you--

Beverly: Yes. English. I forgot to capitalize it. Such a simple thing. We had spelled harder words than that. The word

English. I never forgot that. It was so humiliating. He was a year behind me in school and he was small.

Don: Do you remember the May basket parties?

Beverly: Yes, I do. I can't believe we traipsed all over Eastham and after we got in high school, we used to walk to Orleans and hang them.

Don: The mother in the house must have had to be warned in advance, because she always had cocoa and something, cider and doughnuts. That was a big social event.

Beverly: It was, yes.

Don: And you had May baskets hung on you, I'm sure.

Beverly: I guess. They were always either hung on me or the boys. I don't remember. I guess they hung them on as a group. Hang them on the Campbell house!

Don: Any excuse for a party.

Beverly: There was always a crowd of people at our house.

Don: I remember Sis Horton. She was a pal of yours.

Beverly: She was my best girl friend and then she ended up being my sister-in-law.

Don: That's right too. She's living in Florida now?

Beverly: Yes. In Naples.

Don: Does she ever get up here?

Beverly: Not since Buddy died. She sold the property up here and she doesn't like to travel, so she stays down there. We go down to see her every winter.

Don: The crowd that I grew up with-- crowd, there were perhaps ten boys in town, in the neighborhood-- we always had clubs. Did the girls have clubs? Did you form clubs?

Beverly: Not that I was ever in, no. I would say there were more cliques. Girls are more cliquey. [Laughter] But we didn't have that many-- well, we all played together. There was Sis Horton and Mathel Turner and Mary King. The Murphy girls for a while. Then they moved to Wellfleet.

Don: They were at the reunion. Nice looking ladies.

Beverly: I saw them, yes, and they looked great

Don: They looked wonderful.

Beverly: Marion was in my brother Buddy's class. And Vivian, I guess, was a year ahead of her. And Clarence-- there was what, six? Six or seven.

Don: There were Malcolm and Clarence that I remember.

Beverly: Arthur--

Don: And Arthur.

Beverly: Then there was the girl Natalie. She was the youngest. And Marion and Vivian.

Don: We've got up to six.

Beverly: There were two older ones. Two boys. I've even forgotten their names. Two older boys.

Don: I remember them during the Depression, when everyone was quite poor, including them, of course, with eight children.

Do you remember the WPA programs that they had? There'd be a touring group of singers or something?

Beverly: I've got a picture here of one play. It's called "The Womanless Wedding". Do you remember that?

Don: No.

Beverly: The whole cast was men dressed in women's clothes, and they didn't have a man piano player, so my Aunt Frank played the piano and she wore one of my brother's suits. [Laughter] And I've got a picture of it. Both my brothers were in it. I can find it if you want to see it some time.

Don: I would like to see it some time.

Beverly: They put on a play every year, I guess, for a few years. Then there were the other programs. At the mill. They opened up the mill and John Fulcher was the miller. But Sis Horton was his assistant, and she was paid by the National Youth Administration or something.

Don: And she was the assistant miller?

Beverly: Yes. And I had a picture of that and a write-up of her-- a picture of her putting on one of the sails. She had to climb up, you know. It was in the BOSTON GLOBE and I gave it to Mr. Jewell. Now it must be somewhere. The miller, he could have it to put up in there or something, because there was a big article about it.

Don: This was what? Back in 1936?

Beverly: Around '36 or '37, yes.

Don: I remember they had entertainment. They had singers and general things and put on a show.

Beverly: Oh, they did, yes. Put all these people to work.

Don: And then they had dances too. They'd teach dancing.

Harriet Crosby, Zibe Crosby's wife, was one of the teachers.

Beverly: Yes, she taught dancing. And they put Mr.-- what was that man's name? I remember he built a ping pong table, so they could play ping pong up in the Town Hall, and he built one and we had it here in our double parlors, a ping pong table, believe it or not. Mr. Southard. Mr. Southard.

Don: Oh, yes. That was Marion Emond's father, Jerry Emond's grandfather. I remember the ping pong table, because I played ping pong. I was pretty good at it and so I went into a tournament. And the person that beat me was John Ullmann. He was much older than I. Well, not much, a few years older. And he was so nice. He felt so badly. I guess I was pretty upset at losing. I always hated to lose. And he said, well, we'll play again. So we played another match and he beat me again. But at least he gave me the opportunity.

Beverly: We had the ping pong table in there in the double parlors. That was after my husband started coming down to see me. And we were playing one night and he came up with the paddle and we had the overhead lights and he broke all the lights.

Don: How many bulbs?

Beverly: Three. And three shades.

Don: [Laughs] Watch out for his forehand! Or overhead smash.

Beverly: I guess we had a good time. We didn't realize we were having a good time.

Don: That's right. That point often occurs to me, that things I just took for granted now seem so wonderful.

Beverly: I know it. You know what I was thinking about one day-- of course my brothers worked hard. They worked hard. My father had his own land and my Grandfather Campbell's land that he raised the turnips and the asparagus and carrots. And then he always had a small garden for our own use.

One of the things that I used to love was when my brothers had to go to the shore and get seaweed in a horse and wagon, and all us kids would go, all the neighborhood, and sometimes we'd ride and sometimes we'd run beside, and we'd spend the whole forenoon down there. I remember going to Sunken Meadow and

getting seaweed and we'd kill a whole morning. Come home with a truckload of seaweed.

Don: This is for the asparagus fields and the turnips?

Beverly: No, for the horse stall.

Don: Oh, for the horse stall! Oh, this was salt hay then?

Beverly: Yes. Just for bedding. Of course they had the unpleasant job of cleaning out the horse stall and the cow stalls too.

Don: That was one of the jobs I didn't particularly care for.
Don't particularly care for.

Beverly: We had ducks, chickens, a cow and a horse. Our ducks we kept, I guess, for live decoys, because my father used to go gunning a lot.

Don: Did he keep a pig and have it slaughtered in the fall?

Beverly: Yes, we used to have a pig quite frequently. In fact, I remember the first pigs. I mean, the first pigs that I remember, I was real small and we lived besides Brackett's store and the pigs had the whole field beside the store. It was a big field, so it was never-- pigs aren't dirty by nature, if they

have enough room to be clean. And I used to go out and ride on those pigs. I must have been about five. And the day they slaughtered them, I cried all day. I'll always remember that. Lester Horton from North Truro or Wellfleet came up. They slaughtered them and I sat in the house and cried.

Don: We had one of the Richardson men, Isabelle's father, do the slaughtering. Well, we weren't sentimental about our pigs. We'd be out there observing this very closely. [Laughter]

Beverly: We had several pigs that time. I don't ever remember my father raising more than one after that, but that year he had-- I think he had them in conjunction with somebody else. They were owned by several people probably.

Don: Yes, they shared them.

Beverly: But then when they killed a pig, we had to eat pork-- we even had it for breakfast. It didn't keep.

Don: It didn't keep, that's right. They made sausage--

Beverly: Ham, of course.

Don: Hams. And then they made something called head cheese. Did you ever have head cheese?

Beverly: I didn't like it.

Don: I didn't at the time, but now I love it. Blood pudding.

Beverly: Yes. All that stuff.

Don: I don't know whether I should tell this story, but we knew that footballs were always-- they said they were made from pig's bladders, you know. So one year we tried to make a football out of a pig's bladder. It didn't work too well.

Beverly: I think we lived off the land as much as anybody did, because my father went hunting so much. We had venison all winter. And rabbits. We had rabbit hounds. In fact, there used to be a man came down from the city every fall and hired my father to take him rabbit-hunting. But we always ate rabbit.

Don: How did your mother cook them?

Beverly: My mother cooked it and made rabbit pie. It's like chicken pie. It's very white meat. I wouldn't eat it today, believe me.

Don: I've had rabbit and it's very good, but I still don't like the idea of eating it.

Beverly: From what I read in the paper, you have to be very

careful handling wild rabbit.

Don: Yes, there's some sort of a disease.

Beverly: But we had ducks and geese. The winters were colder then, I think, because my father would go with Foster Atwood to this blind up on Great Pond, and they had the live decoys, and we'd have so many ducks and geese nailed to the barn through the bills, and they would freeze there.

Don: Good refrigeration system. Was there any season on shooting deer then? I don't recall. Could you just shoot them any time?

Beverly: I think they shot them any time, but I think there was a season. [Laughter] That's something else I wouldn't eat today is venison.

Don: I've never liked venison. It's too gamey.

Beverly: But we ate what was put in front of us when we were kids.

Don: That's for sure. We ate very well.

Beverly: Yes, we did, because we always had chickens.

Don: Chicken every Sunday, to coin a phrase.

Beverly: And my mother canned a lot of vegetables. Of course my Grandfather Campbell lived in Boston and he came down. When he came down during the winter, he'd bring these big full bunches of bananas. They'd hang down in the Cape Cod cellar. And oranges, he'd bring them down from the city.

Don: They'd bring them down green, the bananas down green and then they would hang and they'd ripen.

Beverly: He even brought a tarantula in one bunch one time. My brother Charlie loved spiders and snakes and he was in his glory catching that tarantula. Huge!

Don: I guess they're not as dangerous as they're supposed to be.

Beverly: I guess not.

Don: Well, your brothers did trapping, I'm sure. Had skunks?

Beverly: Skunks, yes, and muskrats.

Don: Skin them themselves?

Beverly: Oh, yes, and turn them inside out on a shingle and hang them up. I don't know where they sold them. I'm sure I don't

know. The Goff brothers, did they buy skins?

Don: I did a long interview with Charlie Escobar once and he said that you either skun them yourself and dried them and then you sold them to furriers from Boston. They'd come down and make a swing around. We always thought that they were real crooks, because they would always find something wrong with the fur. Either the hair hadn't set properly or there was too much white in the skunk or the muskrat had TB and was sickly. But then, if you didn't want to skin them yourself, you would sell the carcass to the Goff boys and they would skin it and sell the fur.

Beverly: I guess they sold to a furrier, because I know they used to skin them. But what a cruel thing, those steel traps. Terrible.

Don: Yes, I know. The only justification I can find is that they weren't being cruel or sadistic. This was just a money-making proposition.

Beverly: They had to have-- it was their spending money.

Don: Yes. But it was a cruel way to catch the animals.

Beverly: One time Buddy and Edwin Horton went to-- they had some traps set together, and apparently they caught the mother skunk, and then they dug out a baby and they brought it home and they

made it a new home. They dug a-- my mother really put up with a lot-- they made a den out on the lawn. They dug down and they got down on their knees and they put a box and they had chicken wire all around the whole thing, and then he had a tunnel that came up above ground and they had him all fenced in above ground. They were going to raise this baby skunk. One night he was gone.

Don: Just disappeared?

Beverly: He found a way to get out and disappeared. But they worked a whole day getting it ready for him. [Laughter] Yes, he dug himself out somewhere.

Don: I remember you always knew who was skunking from the school. It always smelled of skunk. And Charlie Escobar told me that, in fact, he wore skunking clothes to school, so that Otto would send him home. He told me that if it didn't work, then he would stand next to that pot-bellied stove, the coal-fired stove, and put his shoes on the stove, so that would really smell.

Beverly: We always looked forward to summer, when the summer people came. They came down to Campground Landing. The same families every year. We had so many new kids to play with. Eddie Brown was one of them.

Don: He remembers you. He talks about you and Sis.

Beverly: He's always asking me if I want to go down to some place in Wellfleet where there was a Dime a Dance, he said. Big Chief Dance Hall.

Don: He's talked about that with me. I never went down there.

Beverly: I never did either. I remember the Big Chief, but I do not remember the Dime a Dance business. But he does apparently.

Don: He has a great fondness for Eastham, right from those days on.

Beverly: We were glad when they came. And they always played baseball, the summer kids against the townies.

Don: And there was a Mrs. Townsend.

Beverly: Mrs. Townsend gave a party for the winners one year. The townies won.

Don: Was she a wealthy person?

Beverly: Yes. In those days she was wealthy. More wealthy than anybody else was around, I guess.

Don: Are any of her descendants still living here?

Beverly: I don't think she ever had any children or anything. She did give a big donation for the first Catholic Church there in Orleans, in later years. I don't know why.

Don: In those days there were very few trees. You can see the ocean and the bay almost everywhere.

Beverly: Yes, you could.

Don: That's one reason, I think, it was colder, because there was nothing to stop the wind.

Beverly: Nothing to stop the wind and the snow would drift so.

Don: Always seemed to drift into our driveway and we had about a hundred yards to dig out.

Beverly: Another thing we used to do, which horrifies me now. Of course we didn't have any hot water in the summertime, unless they lit the wood stove. We had a tank behind the stove, a big copper tank. They'd come in, my father and the boys, they'd been out hoeing or cultivating or what all all afternoon, and we'd all pile in the car with a cake of soap and towels and go to Moll's Pond.

Don: We used to do that.

Beverly: Of course we had our bathing suits on, but we'd go up there and lather up. Moll's Pond had no houses around it.

Don: It was nice soft water. We'd go down to Minister's Pond. I know my brother Robert worked at A. F. Smith & Sons and he'd always go to Crystal Pond to wash up. Of course that would be terrible now. You'd be polluting the pond with the soap.

Beverly: In those days we didn't.

Don: But we spent a lot of time in the water those days.

Beverly: Oh, we did. The boys worked hard, but they seemed to have a lot of free time too. We'd go down to Campground if the tide was high. My father would get us all in the car and we'd all go to the beach. And you knew everybody. You knew everybody down there.

Don: But the summer people were fun. There were a lot of romances between the summer kids and the town kids. I remember you'd go to the mail. That was the big thing, going to the mail, and you'd meet everyone at the mail.

Beverly: And get an ice cream cone. In North Eastham we could stop at Obed Horton's store. He had ice cream too. And watch the train come in. The boys used to take the train to Wellfleet and play baseball too.

Don: That's right. I remember that.

Beverly: And they used to play up here, the top of the hill where-- I don't know who they played, but I remember them being up there playing baseball.

Don: Up next to the Town Hall?

Beverly: Yes.

Don: There was a field there. We played a lot there. Of course, I was never much good at baseball. Whit Howes was the big baseball player.

Beverly: Yes, wasn't he?

Don: I was thinking of the-- changing the subject, remember when marathon dances were big? And they had marathon dances up in the hall up there in Yarmouth, was it?

Beverly: In Harwich, wasn't it? The hall that just burnt down two summers ago?

Don: Was that the Exchange Hall?

Beverly: Oh, no. They had an Exchange Hall too, I guess, I

don't know. That's where we used to play basketball, by the way. But they had a place over there in Harwich. Then Mill Hill over towards Hyannis.

Don: That's the one I'm thinking of. Red Skelton in his youth was at--

Beverly: I read that somewhere.

Don: I have to be honest, I never went.

Beverly: I went once and watched them.

Don: They were pretty sadistic things actually.

Beverly: I guess so. I only saw them once.

Don: These people just driving themselves for a pittance, and they were really exploited.

Beverly: Oh, they were.

Don: There was a movie Jane Fonda made. I don't know if you remember. "They Don't Shoot Horses".

Beverly: I think we saw a re-run on television. When I went to high school, Sis and I, we used to like to roller skate. They

had a big roller skating rink in Chatham. That's where we used to go, if we could get anybody to take us. [Laughter]

Don: Oh, I'm sure you had no trouble.

Beverly: Your cousin-- is Lloyd Mayo your cousin?

Don: Yes.

Beverly: He says we conned him into taking us one night. I don't remember. But I know Louis Fulcher, he used to take us, because he had a girl over there. He'd go visit his girl friend while we skated and then he'd pick us up and bring us home.

Don: Things do appear much brighter from the standpoint of a few years, but I still agree with you that we had a lot of fun.

Beverly: You know, I read the papers today and they say, oh, the kids have no place to hang out. Well, we didn't have any particular place to go. We stayed in. And we read or played games in the house. We used to play cards a lot.

Don: Played Monopoly a lot. And Parcheesi.

Beverly: Parcheesi and checkers.

Don: Dominoes.

Beverly: Dominoes and-- I don't know, it seemed like we were always playing rummy, all kinds of rummies.

Don: I had a letter from a woman that was a summer visitor, and she visited our family and we knew them quite well. She wrote that she'd read one of my articles and she wondered if I was the Sparrow boy that she'd visited. She said, I remember you kids, you were always busy, always doing something. We made lead soldiers. We melted lead.

Beverly: We used to make bayberry candles, and that was pretty time-consuming to pick all those bayberries and melt them down and dip the string and let it harden and dip it again.

Don: I made one and I never knew what happened to it. It was always so precious, I never wanted to burn it. It took me so long to make it, but they did smell wonderful when they burned. The bayberry candles you buy now are about ten per cent bayberry and ninety per cent paraffin.

Beverly: We all read a lot. We used to always be reading books.

Don: I used the library a lot.

Beverly: I did too. Twice a week. Wednesday and Saturday. And three books each time.

Don: Three books each time, you're right. It was open all day Saturday and we'd go there Saturday morning and take out three books and read the three books during the day, then go back in the afternoon and take out three more.

Beverly: You would? Oh, I never did that.

Don: Well, it's one of my statements. I'm working on the Library Building Committee, as you know, and I say that I've been using that library for sixty years. Which is true. I'm sixty-six and I started using it when I was six years old.

Beverly: I know in good weather I had to ride my bicycle to the library. Mathel Turner had a bicycle and we'd race. We'd separate at Great Pond Road and one would come up the highway and one would go up Great Pond Road and we'd see who'd get to the library first. We'd do that twice a week if the weather was good.

Don: The bicycles were the new departure brakes. You'd put on the brakes by just turning the pedals back.

Beverly: Just push back on the pedal, yes. Big tires.

Don: Those brakes were always going bad and every boy I know had his bicycle brake apart all the time. It was a real trick to put

it back together.

Beverly: My brother Charlie, he liked snakes, and I took his bicycle one day. He had no handle grips on it. He had stored one of his snakes in the handlebars. I was riding and this-- I guess it was a little garter snake came out. [Laughter] The bicycle and I parted ways. I just fell right off.

SIDE TWO, TAPE ONE:

Don: This is a continuation of the interview with Beverly Campbell. I'm going to call you Beverly Campbell. So when you graduated from high school, what did you do?

Beverly: I didn't have any burning ambition to do anything, but I had to do something, so I went to business school. I went to what is called Burdett College in Boston, a business school. I hadn't taken any business courses in high school. I just took the general course.

Then I worked in an office. But I had never wanted to leave the Cape. I came home every weekend.

Don: But you worked in Boston?

Beverly: Oh, yes.

Don: Which office did you work in?

Beverly: My second job was with Ciba Company, Ciba dye stuff, Ciba Chemical and Dye Stuff, and I worked there all the time.

Don: As a secretary?

Beverly: Yes. It was just dye stuff, not chemicals. I worked there till I got married.

Don: Did you work at the Howard Johnson stand?

Beverly: I didn't. I don't know why. It seemed like everybody else did.

Don: That was one of the big events of my youth.

Beverly: Working at Howard Johnson's? I can remember being in there one night with Sis and a girl friend of ours that was down for the summer. She was Asie Lee's granddaughter. And we were in there one night and-- well, it's a long story. We had borrowed a car. Sis had a license by then. We borrowed Brad Steele's Model-T and went up to get an ice cream. So Ezekiel Fulcher and some other boy, I don't know why, saw us in there, saw the car outside, so they got in and released the brake. It was downhill. We didn't know they were in there steering. We couldn't see, 'cause there wasn't that much traffic in those

days. Well, our friend Elaine, that was with us, panicked and ran through one of the windows at Howard Johnson's. Which looked just like doors. They had those long windows with screens in them and no bars and she went out through it after the car. After that they put bars over those windows. I always told her that she was the one that made them do it.

Don: I had an automobile incident in the Howard Johnson parking lot. I had just started going with Reta and I didn't have a car and she borrowed her father's car and she said, "Do you want to drive?" And I didn't want to admit I couldn't drive, so I said, "Oh, sure!" So I started up the car. It was an old Pontiac. And I managed to get it into reverse and I was backing up and I turned too quickly and I hooked the bumper of an old Model-T that was next to me, and then I panicked and I didn't know how to stop it, so I was dragging-- jerking this thing along, dragging it across the parking lot. And I finally got it stopped. The owner was a Portuguese fisherman from Provincetown. He saw his car going across the lot and he came running out, running after the car, yelling. So I got it stopped and I handed the keys to Reta and said, "Here, you'd better drive." That was the end of that.

Beverly: She had her license then?

Don: Oh, she had her license, but she used to-- I'll tell a story or two. She used to borrow her father's car. There were four of them-- Dot and Pat and Reta and Annie, and all the kids

were borrowing the car and he was a little irascible about it. So they wouldn't bother to ask him. When he went to bed, they'd push the car out of the garage and push it down the road and start it. And then when they were coming home, they'd get it going fast and shut off the motor and the lights and coast in.

Years afterward Pappy-- we called him Pappy-- was visiting us and we told about that, and he said something to the effect, well, you thought you were fooling me, but I knew every time you took the car out.

Beverly: I suppose he saw how the gasoline was gone.

Don: I think they must have put some gas in. I know Reta-- that was one of the conditions of me riding with Reta, that I had to put some gasoline in.

You were going to tell me about going swimming in Salt Pond when you were in school.

Beverly: It must have been a real hot spring or something, but I can remember Otto saying, bring your bathing suits to school and we'll go for a swim, and coming down there and going in swimming at lunch time.

Don: I never did it. I've heard of it.

Beverly: I don't know if he did it more than once or what, but I do remember doing it.

Don: I've heard from several that he did it, so he must have done it more than once.

Beverly: Did you come down to Austin Cole's candy store at lunch time?

Don: Oh, yes. Minnie Cole was the lady selling penny candy. That's Fred Jewell's home now.

You were going to talk about the mosquito control.

Beverly: Well, I know when that came in, farming was out, going out. Prices were way down and refrigerated cars, I guess, had put the price of asparagus down. My father worked on the mosquito control. I think he got twenty-five dollars a week.

Don: That was good money. And Shinner Dill was the--

Beverly: Shinner Dill was in charge. And George Nickerson, Arthur's father. I don't remember who else.

Don: Shinner Dill was-- was it Fred Dill?

Beverly: Fred.

Don: And he lived in what's now the Wonderstrand Farm?

Beverly: Right.

Don: And there was a Gill that lived in what is Collis Peters' place there on Nauset Road, nearby.

Beverly: There was a Gill lived over in back. I don't know where Collis Peters lived.

Don: Well, Collis Peters now lives on-- well, he just sold the place. It's right on Nauset Road.

Beverly: And that was Jim Brewer's farm.

Don: Yes. But before that was it a Gill?

Beverly: It was always Jim Brewer's as far as I remember, but Addon Gill and Lonnie and a man we called Bill Peter-- I guess he was a Gill too-- they lived way over in back. It's all developed now with other houses. There was a two-family house over in back there.

Don: You called him Bill Peter?

Beverly: Yes. I don't know, I guess his last name was Gill, I'm not sure. But that's what I always knew him as, Bill Peter.

[Correction: His name was Higgins]

Don: There were a lot of nicknames in those days. Reta talks about a Toppha Sparrow in Orleans. I said, "Toppha? What do you mean?" Well, it turns out that he had a speech impediment and I think that Toppha was the closest he could get to Sparrow. Of course we called Larry Baker "Full Moon Baker", because he was supposed to go wild on the full moon. [Laughter]

Beverly: Times sure have changed. We used to go to the beach all by ourselves, but we were just little children. We'd walk down to Campground and spend the-- if the boys didn't have to work, we'd spend the whole day. Play on the flats and when the tide came in, we'd go swimming.

Don: I remember the ocean side. We'd go camping on the ocean. We'd spend several days there.

Beverly: We had a tent down there, my family. My Grandfather Sullivan. At one time he owned considerable of the salt marsh down there. He used to get salt hay. The family sold that back in the fifties. Unfortunately they didn't keep it till the National Park came in. But we had a tent down there and we'd go down weekends. My father'd let the air out of the tires on the old Dodge and we'd go down the inside road and stay in the tent.

Don: You left the tent there permanently during the summer? You wouldn't have to put it up every time?

Beverly: No, we'd leave it there. It was safe. And then in later years Sis and I would go over there and spend the night on the beach. We'd have our campfire and heat beans. My father would take us over usually. He'd go up to the Coast Guard Station, which was the old station, not the one that's there now, and he'd tell them, keep an eye on the girls, they're sleeping on the beach. You'd feel the flashlight come in your face during the night when they patrolled. Then he'd come get us in the morning. We did that a number of times.

Don: There used to be skunks roaming around. You'd see the skunks at night there roaming around. We slept right out on the dunes. In a hollow, you know. Sometimes we'd pitch a tent. We'd have a pup tent and sleep in that, but otherwise we'd just sleep under blankets. Under a canvas tarp. And you'd wake up in the morning when it was cool and the ground was just saturated with dew. It was so wet. Remember that?

Beverly: Yes. You could see little footprints sometimes.

Don: You'd always have a bonfire at night.

Beverly: Yes. You could pick up all the driftwood you wanted for firewood. You never worried about anything happening. I'm sure your mother never worried about you boys out alone. Nothing ever happened to you.

Don: Well, I sometimes wonder if she wasn't a bit concerned when we'd be there for three or four days on end, you know, but she never-- you know, we always were allowed to do it. I remember once my father did take me and Clyde Wilson down. I don't know why, but he took us down about two miles and was going to leave us there for several days, and we had one pup tent for the two of us. And we got there and it started raining, and, you know, if you touched the canvas, it would leak. It got so we were sitting there in this tent like this, and of course you couldn't keep from hitting the canvas, so after about an hour of leaks all over the place-- and we were miserable, and I don't think my father was supposed to come back for three days. And then we tried putting newspapers on the canvas on the outside and that seemed to stop it for a while, but then it leaked all the more. We couldn't have a campfire because it was raining. We were just miserable. My father took pity on us. I think he came back the following morning and picked us up. And we used to camp on Minister's Pond too.

Beverly: We had a tent on Moll's Pond one summer. There were no houses around Moll's Pond. There used to be an old dirt road. We used to go up there and go skating in the winter too. It was so clear.

Don: It's a nice pond.

Beverly: Beautiful. But we had a tent up there and I know

Edwin, Jr. and Buddy would have it for a few nights and then they'd have to come home and Sis and I'd go up and sleep. We took turns. I remember one night a terrible thunder and lightning storm, we didn't even hear it. We'd gotten in and we'd gone to sleep. My father came up in the middle of the night, because he thought we'd be terrified, and he had to wake us up to bring us home. We hadn't even heard it.

Don: We had a sort of a semi-permanent camp. There's a little peninsula between the two parts of Minister's Pond. Sometimes it's called Spectacle Pond.

Beverly: I always called that Schoolhouse Pond and Minister's Pond.

Don: Then sometimes we called it Spectacle Pond, because of the two of them. But we kept our tents there all summer long. We had a flagpole. We'd fly an American flag. We had a little dock built.

Beverly: You had your own camp.

Don: Yes. There was a bunch of girls and some family that was camping there. So one night about-- I guess it was about midnight, we'd sit up and talk all hours of the night. Of course we could have fires too. We'd have a campfire. And so we thought it'd be fun to go over and raid the camp. So we got in our canoe and we had a bugle and we had some pans. So we went over and we got into the middle of the camp, then we let loose with the bugle and the pans, and we ran and got into our canoe and paddled back and they didn't catch us. We were laughing and giggling. It was so much fun, we thought we'd try it again. So we went back and this time they were waiting for us. And I escaped, and I think it was Bill Watson who had to stay in the water. He was doing an Indian bit. He got a hollow reed and he was breathing through a hollow reed and he escaped. I remember Bob Watson had on a pair of very light pants and he escaped through the camp up to what's now Route 6. And the story was, that got back to our folks, that we were naked, because they thought Bob was naked in these white pants. So we were really in trouble there for a while.

Beverly: Robert-- they didn't hang around with you and your friends?

Don: Fenton and myself and Kenny Mayo and Monk Wilson and Bob

Wilson and Bill Watson and Whit Howes and Frankie Kemp, that was sort of the gang that I was with. Wilbur and Robert were just enough older so that they had their own gang. There was some interfacing, but mostly we kept apart.

Beverly: It's funny, when you're young, two years makes a big difference. When you get grown up, two years is nothing.

Don: Well, that's why I say, when I was in high school, when I was two years younger than everyone else, that was an enormous gap. We had our fiftieth reunion recently and I remember Edith Rose was at our reunion, and we gave out prizes for a lot things, including the youngest, and of course I was the youngest, and Edith Rose said to me, "I didn't know you were two years younger than everyone else in high school." Well, I was about a foot shorter than everyone else. She must have thought I was a midget.

Beverly: Boys start to grow pretty late sometimes. Girls mature earlier.

Don: I don't know if you remember Vernon Hopkins. Well, he came back for our reunion. He's living in Albuquerque, New Mexico. And the strangest thing, he has a deep Southern drawl. You'd swear that he was born and brought up in the South.

Beverly: Well, you know Edwin Horton has a drawl, because he

married a girl from, I don't know, Georgia or somewhere, with a drawl, and of course they live in Florida, and he has sort of a drawl and he says, "Yes Ma'am" and "No Ma'am". I guess when you live with someone that speaks like that, you just pick it up. . . .

END OF SESSION